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COUNTRY Ecuador

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SUBJECT Status of Galapagos Islands

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DATE INFO. August 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. It has been ascertained that the Ecuadoran Ministry of Foreign Relations does not have in its files any documents which indicate that the United States government has relinquished any of the rights granted it during World War II by Ecuador with respect to the Galapagos Islands.
2. This lack was discovered by Dr. Antonio Parra Velasco when he became Minister of Foreign Relations in 1946. He queried Drs. Enrique Arizaga Toral and Gabriel Pino Ycaza, who had represented the Ecuadoran government in the matter of rights to the Galapagos Islands, as to whether such documents existed and, if so, where they were located. Neither Arizaga nor Pino Ycaza could answer Parra Velasco's questions. Parra Velasco, who is known to be bitterly anti-United States and a member of Accion Revolucionaria Nacional Ecuatoriana, insisted that all United States soldiers be recalled from the Islands, which was subsequently accomplished.
3. According to source, Parra Velasco is reported to be very upset because of the lack of such documents, especially in view of present world tension. He fears that the United States could legally insist that the rights conceded by Ecuador with respect to the Islands are still in vigor.

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